

*Los Angeles County Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures*

:: NEWS BULLETIN ::

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COUNTY SEALER ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS:
CASH REGISTERS MUST DISPLAY PRICE INFORMATION TO CUSTOMERS
ALSO: LISTING OF LATEST COMPLETED SCANNER OVERCHARGE CASES**

Cato R. Fiksdal, Los Angeles County Sealer of Weights and Measures, is pleased to announce the enactment of a new consumer protection law. Assembly Bill 2732 was carried by local representative Carl Washington at the request of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as an important part of the *Buyer Beware* program. Governor Davis signed the bill on September 23. The measure will require store cash registers to display to the customer the price of each item as it is scanned.

“Our agency pressed for this legislation to make sure consumers could confirm the price of each item as it moved across the checkout counter,” said Mr. Fiksdal. Grocery supermarkets that use scanners already display prices to the customer because their cash register produce scales are required to display the weight to the consumer. AB 2732 extends this requirement to all retailers using electronic point-of-sale systems. This allows the retailer and consumer to reconcile any disagreement on the price during the sale, without a return trip or the intervention of government.

The language in the bill gives retailers four years to bring their systems into compliance. In thanking Assemblyman Washington for introducing the bill, Mr. Fiksdal noted the assemblyman “persevered, ultimately getting a bill through that is very helpful to consumers, while not overly burdensome to retailers.” Sealer Fiksdal concluded, “The governor noted the value of this legislation by stating at its signing, ‘AB 2732 provides consumers and retailers with immediate information on pricing accuracy.’”

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Listed below are cases completed during the month of April, 2002.

1. **Albertson's Inc. #6511, 3841 Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena**

Date of offense: 2/08/01

Charges: 6 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1289

2. **Albertson's Inc. #6167, 3211 Firestone Blvd., South Gate**

Date of offense: 8/01/01

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$749

3. **KMart Corporation #3639, 8891 La Cienega Blvd., Inglewood**

Date of offense: 2/14/01

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1453

4. **Longs Drug Stores #513, 1570 Rosecrans Ave., Manhattan Beach**

Date of offense: 6/27/01

Charges: 5 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1379

5. **Ralph's Grocery Company #313, 14500 Oceangate, Hawthorne**

Date of offense: 4/03/01

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$845